Decline in production of groundnut

2663. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a tact that yield of groundnut is declining in major groundnut growing States like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are their problems and what remedial measures are being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that high level of aflcioxin contents in gorundnut extractions has seriously reduced its exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) During the long term period of 1967-68 to 1986-87 the yield of groundnut in the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has shown a growth rate of 0.36, 0.50, 1.78 and 0.54 per cent per annum respectively. During the recent period, yield of groundnut in these States has been fluctuating because of aberrant weather conditions.

(b) In order to increase the production and productivity of various oilseeds including groundnut, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes—National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP) have been launched. Various facilities and incentives through financial assistance are provided under these projects to promote the cultivation and increase the productivity of groundnut. The Government has also set up a Technology Mission on Oilseeds to accelerate self-reliance in oilseeds/edible oils

(c) Some overseas buyers of groundnut extractions are reluctant to offer suitable prices on the ground that such extractions have high level of aflatoxin. The Central Food Technological Research Institute at Mysore has offered technology for controlling aflatoxin levels.

2664. *(Transferred to the 7th December.* 1988)

Setting up of a sponge iron plant in Orissa

2665. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has put forth a proposal for a Sponge Iron Plant in the State;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the estimated cost of the Project and where tht Project is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New variety of Basmati rice

2666. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Agriculture Research Institute has undertaken tissue culture experiment to evolve new varieties of Basmati Rice which are known as good quality in India and abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of Basmati Rice produced and exported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Over 600 soma-clones of the fine grain aromatic variety Basmati-370 have been generated. 11 high yielding lines and six semi-dwarf lines have been selected. In station yield trials, these dwarf lines have given about 20-30 per cent more yield than the control variety Basmati-370.

In addition, in-vitro testing of lines for salt tolerance have indicated that a few callus masses could withstand higher concentration (1-1.5 per cent) of salt. Further studies are in progress.

(c) No separate data for production of basmati rice is available. Figures for basmati rice exported during the last two years are given below:—

Year	Quantity exported (in 000 tonnes)
1986-87	237
1987-88	366

Requirement of edible oil

2667. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of edible oil required in the country per annum for consumption:

(b) the total quantity improted every year to meet the demand;

(c) what are the channels of distribution and whether States get the quota on population basis; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to meet the short-fall of edible oil in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The total requirement of edible oils in the country during the oil year 1988-89 is estimated to be about 58.18 lakh MTs.

(b) The quantum of edible oils to be imported is decided by the Government from time to time, keeping in view the gap between demand and supply of indigenous edible oils, availability of foreign exchange, prices of indigenous edible oils in the open market and other related factors. The total quantity of edible oils imported during the oil year 1987-88 was about 18.19 lakh MTs.

(c) Imported edible oils are allocated to the States/UTs for distribution under the Public Distribution System through the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. Population is not the only basis of determining the quota of edible oil allocation to a particular State. The allocation also depends upon the demand, availability of indigenous oils in the State, pace of lifting, management of edible oils allocated earlier etc.

(d) The Government imports edible oils every year to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

Sugar Mills in the country

2668. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sugar mills in private and cooperative sectors existing in the country;

(b) how many sugar mills have been set up during the Seventh Five Year Plan and proposed to be set up during last two years of the Plan;

(c) whether Government of Orissa has given any proposal to set up any new sugar mill in that State;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount earmarked for establishment of Sugar factory during the Seventh Five Year Plan and amount released so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) There are 211 sugar mills in Cooperative Sector and 119 mills in Private Sector installed in the country as on 15-11-1988.

(b) 28 new sugar mills have been set up during the first three years of the 7th Five Year Plan against the letters of intent|licences issued prior to 7th Plan. 7